



COVID-19 Update

November 13, 2020

It's Friday the 13th and the number of COVID-19 cases is rising. Although we have been fortunate in keeping the number of cases in our communities low, we encourage you to continue in the practices that have helped all of us so far:

- Stay home, except for essential business.
- If you go out, wear a mask or cloth face covering that completely covers your nose and mouth.
- Maintain a distance of at least six feet from others outside of your household.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

We want to stress the importance of staying home – even for Thanksgiving. Although we know everyone is eager to see loved ones, we **strongly discourage** anyone – residents or staff – from in-person celebrations this year beyond your immediate household. The risk of spreading COVID is simply too great.

Mary Linde, Executive Director of St. Paul's Towers, shared her thoughts about whether or not to travel to visit family in a video interview. Although a family emergency required her to travel, her advice is "Don't do it." Instead, she says, "We have to stay the course. There will be Thanksgiving next year and the year after. Treat this as the public health crisis as it is." You can watch the full interview here: <https://youtu.be/ljOUMelgCws>

This week, LeadingAge, an organization that provides education, advocacy, and applied research for non-profit aging services such as Covia, shared its Pandemic Playbook at <https://playbook.leadingage.org/>. The Playbook was compiled to "help ensure that aging services providers can prepare for and mitigate the impact of a pandemic by applying what has been learned this year." Chapters include Management and Crisis Intervention; Clinical Impact and Infection Prevention; and Financial Impact and Strategies. It also includes references to Covia, such as how our Well Connected program prevents social isolation, and our interview with Jerry W. Brown sharing his first person experience with COVID-19.

This week and next is also LeadingAge's annual meeting. Every year, LeadingAge bestows the Award of Honor on someone who shows vision, mission, compassion, and courage every day of the year. This year, Katie Smith Sloan, President and CEO of LeadingAge, presented the award to every member of LeadingAge. "Every CNA, housekeeper, service coordinator, dining server, cook, nurse, therapist, dishwasher, social worker, and every administrator, manager, and receptionist. **Everyone**. Your dedication keeps people thriving, families together, and communities intact. Thank you for everything you have done, and continue to do, in the face of incredible adversity. You truly deserve this award. Congratulations!" Watch the video honoring you, LeadingAge's Award of Honor recipients, at <https://leadingage.org/2020-leadingage-award-honor>.